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179<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Baptist Convention  
in Samaria  
Acts 1:8

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## Indian believers falsely tied to murder

NEW DELHI, India (BP) — After police in India's state of Orissa confirmed October 6 that a key Hindu nationalist was killed by Maoists, a Hindu extremist group allegedly circulated forged documents in an attempt to implicate a local church in the August 23 murder.

The Hindu Jagaran Samukhya (Society for Revival of Hinduism or HJS) circulated documents saying that Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati's assassination in Orissa's Kandhamal district was planned at a meeting at Bethikala Church on May 25 attended by 17 people following a briefing and order by religious leaders, the Press Trust of India news agency reported October 9.

Local Christian leaders responded by saying they will file defamation charges. "We will file both civil and criminal defamation cases against the person who made such allegations," Joseph Kalathil of the Catholic Archbishop in Bhubaneswar

and Prafulla Ku Sabhapati, president of the Bethikala Parish Council of Kandhamal, said in a statement. "Not only our signatures were forged, the contents of the documents were also fabricated."

Orissa state police confirmed that Maoists killed Saraswati after a communist leader told NDTV 24X7 news that his organization was behind the murder, targeting Saraswati as a key leader of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (World Hindu Council or VHP).

"We left two letters claiming responsibility for the murders," said Sabyasachi Panda, chief of the Orissa unit of the banned Communist Party of India-Maoist.

Panda said the government of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik "suppressed those letters." The Orissa government, which is affiliated with the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), will support the World Hindu Council, Panda said. "The state government made it look like Christian groups were responsible for the attack. The Christian community in Orissa does not have any Maoist organization supporting them here," Panda said.

In another development, The Indian Express reported that the Orissa police had arrested three tribal Christians in connection with Saraswati's murder and obtained confessions of their involvement.

A representative of the Christian Legal Association told Compass Direct News that, according to Orissa sources, the police had tortured the three Christians to pressure them to confess to a crime they did not commit.

After the assassination of Saraswati, Hindu extremist groups blamed local Christians and began attacks on them, their houses and their churches in spite of the Orissa police and media stating on the day of the murder that suspected Maoists had killed Saraswati.

According to the All India Christian Council, more than 60 people have been killed, more than 18,000 injured, and around 4,500 houses and churches destroyed in the "retributive" violence. Two Christian women, including a nun, reportedly were gang-raped. The violence, which later spread to at least 14 districts of Orissa, has left more than 50,000 people homeless.

In Kandhamal and other districts, the violence continues seven weeks after the violence began. About 15 houses were burned down October 9 by a mob in the Lansaripalli village in the neighboring Boudh district, The Hindu reported. The attackers allegedly came from the Gochhapada area of Kandhamal district.

"Thursday's was the third incident in Boudh district," the daily added. "More than 100 houses were burnt down in two separate attacks in the past few days."

On October 8, a mob burned and looted at least 25 houses of Christians in the Balligada village in Kandhamal,

Ajay Singh of the Catholic Archdiocese of Bhubaneswar told Compass.

On October 7, five or more houses were torched in Jalespanga area of Kandhamal. Another house was burned in the Sujeli village. The Hindu said the more than 16,000 Christians living in various relief camps were not returning to their villages, fearing attacks on them if they refused to convert to Hinduism.

Singh, of the Bhubaneswar Archdiocese, told Compass that more than 12,000 Christians from various relief camps had moved out of Kandhamal to other districts and states, as they feared more attacks.

The president of the VHP, Ashok Singhal, told India's Zee News channel on October 5, "What Hindu organizations including the VHP, the Bajrang Dal and the RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, India's chief Hindu nationalist group] are doing in Orissa is all legal and is the reaction of the murder of VHP leader Saraswati, who was like Jesus Christ to us."

In an interview with The Week magazine published the same day, Singhal said Hindu youth are "ready to die and, if necessary, to kill. [Their] patience is ebbing."

Singhal added that a "Hindu uprising" had begun, "and the political parties will have to rethink and reinvent themselves, for their own existence. If there is no arrangement for Hindus' security, they'll do it on their own. ... If that self-defense is militancy, so be it..."

In addition, a leader of the Bajrang Dal in the southern state of Karnataka admitted to supporting recent attacks on churches while speaking to The Week magazine. "We supported those who attacked the churches, as it is a justified fight," Bajrang Dal convenor Mahendra Kumar said.

The violence in Orissa spread to several other states, including Karnataka, where around 20 churches were destroyed and 20 Christians were attacked in the recent weeks.

As many political parties and rights groups have demanded a ban on the Bajrang Dal for attacking Christians and churches in Orissa and other states, the federal government ruled by the United Progressive Alliance has mandated that the National Integration Council give its recommendations, the Times of India reported October 10.

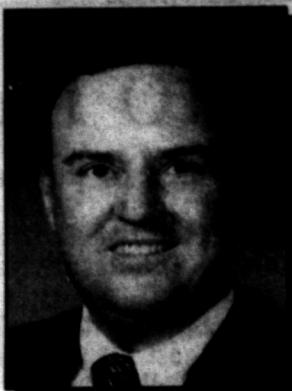
The Bajrang Dal, however, warned that any such move would have "grave consequences" for the government politically, saying there was "no legal ground" for such action.

There are some 900,000 Christians in Orissa, which has a population of 36.8 million.

*Editor's note: Compass Direct News, based in Santa Ana, Calif., provides reports on Christians worldwide who are persecuted for their faith. Used by permission.*



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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**O**n October 10, Connecticut became the third state in the country to legalize homosexual marriage by judicial fiat when the state's Supreme Court ruled by a razor-thin 4-3 vote that same-sex couples have the same constitutional right to marry as heterosexual couples.

Interestingly, the highest courts in California and Massachusetts also recently legalized homosexual marriage by judicial fiat by one-vote margins in those two states. It would seem that even many activist judges have misgivings about so openly thwarting the will of the people from their lofty benches.

In the 85-page majority opinion issued by the Connecticut Supreme Court, Justice Richard N. Palmer cited racial and gender discrimination laws that have been struck down in recent years as validation for the court's split decision. "Like these once prevalent views, our conventional understanding of marriage must yield to a more contemporary appreciation of the rights entitled to constitutional protection," Palmer wrote.

Dissenting Justice Peter T. Zarella disagreed. "The ancient definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman has its basis in biology, not bigotry. If the state no longer has an interest in the regulation of procreation, then that is a decision for the legislature or the people of the state and not this court," he wrote.

"This decision demonstrates — as did the recent decision from the California Supreme Court — the dire need for states to enact constitutional amendments to protect marriage from ongoing judicial

"O LORD, PLEASE LET US HAVE PROBLEMS WITH PARKING AND CROWD CONTROL NEXT SUNDAY."



PASTOR

attack," said Brian Raum of the Alliance Defense Fund, which filed a friend of the court brief for the Family Research Council opposing same-sex marriage.

No matter. "For 28 years we have been engaged," Connecticut resident Garret Stack told the New York Times, standing beside his partner John Anderson. "We can now register at Home Depot and prepare for marriage."

So goes life — and morality — in modern America. Massachusetts, California, and Connecticut are not the only states fighting this battle on multiple fronts. While the State of New York does not legally allow same-sex marriages, Governor David Paterson has issued an executive decree ordering state

agencies to recognize same-sex marriages from other states.

The State of Iowa's high court will soon take up the issue. Close to a dozen states have laws allowing "civil unions" between same-sex couples. Citizens in many states have either introduced or passed constitutional amendments defining marriage as the union between one man and one woman. With an 86% majority, Mississippi voters passed Amendment 1 in November 2004 that states:

*Marriage may take place and may be valid under the laws of this state only between a man and a woman. A marriage in another state or foreign jurisdiction between persons of the same gender, regardless of when the marriage took place, may not be recognized in this state and is void and unenforceable under the laws of this state.*

However we heterosexuals may have messed up marriage as one of our flawed human endeavors, the ideal has been set forth from the earliest days and the earliest pages of the Bible: marriage is intended to be between one man and one woman for life. Although pro-homosexual apologists have even tried to water down the Bible's authority on the issue (arguing that David and Jonathan were homosexual lovers, for example), it is clear what God intended for marriage and it hasn't changed.

Sadly, too many of our marriages within the church end in immorality and divorce. We should continue to strive for the ideal God has set before us and when we get our own act together, perhaps the world will understand that our deeds match our words when it comes to marriage.

Until that day, we'll have an uphill battle to convince the world we practice what we preach.

## GUEST OPINION:

### *Be ready on game day!*

By David Francis  
Nashville

**E**nlist, equip, encourage. Enlist, equip, encourage. That's the cycle of work for the Sunday School leader. It's a lot like being a coach. The following are a few ideas for coaching your Sunday School leaders to be a winning team:

- Match their position with their gifts. During one of his earlier stints as head coach of the Washington Redskins, Joe Gibbs was influenced by a study on spiritual gifts at his church. It changed the way he coached. The result was a Super Bowl championship.

What was the big change? Using the natural gifts of his players to make sure they were in the right position and designing plays around their talents. Sunday School leaders perform best when their assigned position matches their giftedness.

- Provide them with good equipment. A helmet that is too big or cleats that are too tight can have a negative impact on the performance of a football player. On the other hand, a new jersey can sometimes create just the motivation a team needs to win a big game.

Do your Sunday School leaders have the best equipment you can provide? That includes good curriculum materials, of course.

When I served as a minister of education, I always checked every adult room on Saturday nights to make sure there were markers and erasers, nametags, coffee supplies, etc. It was also a great time to pray for every class and leader, because the best equipment your leaders can have is not Under Armour, but God's armor (Ephesians 6:10f).

- Help them understand the game plan. Ever wonder about the multicolored, laminated page most football coaches carry on the sidelines during a game? Those are usually "down-and-distance" charts. They have developed a plan for that specific game about what plays might work best in every situation. Do your leaders understand the Sunday School game plan? Do they know what

- to do if a child is injured? Are they prepared for the student who arrives early? Are they equipped to get a visiting preschooler to the right room?

Teaching a pre-K class, we often have kids directed to our class who have just turned four years old, when a younger class would be better for them. Using a chart is an easy way to solve this. Using a word-processing program, make a table with seven columns and 13 rows. The top row is for title: Month, then six rows with the birth years applicable to the current group of preschoolers (this will change each year). Down the left side of the chart, list the months of the year, January-December. Now go back and enter — or just print — the appropriate class in each month/year cell. You can change the chart as often as necessary.

- Stay focused on the goal. Offensive linemen often have a hard time concentrating on the snap count in an opponent's stadium because of the crowd noise. It's easy to get distracted as a Sunday School leader, as well. Take every opportunity to remind your leaders of the goal: Boys and girls, men and women discovering the great truths of God's Word and the faith stories of believers; connecting with Jesus Christ and with other Christians in loving fellowship and ministry; and inviting others to experience what they are enjoying.

Invite, discover, connect. That's the work of the Sunday School team. Enlist, equip, encourage. That's the work of the successful Sunday School coach.

Francis serves as director of Sunday School for LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

# NAMB commissions 108 new missionaries

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Declaring "you have been sent by the Father," North American Mission Board (NAMB) President Geoff Hammond and other NAMB leaders commissioned 108 missionaries and chaplains on October 6 to the North American mission field during a celebration service at First Church in New Orleans.

In 1845, Southern Baptists created the Domestic Mission Board in large part to reach and minister to people in the city of New Orleans — at the time, the largest city in the South. "We were the city singled out in 1845 because we were so special," said David Crosby, senior pastor of First Church, New Orleans.

In this city where 2005's Hurricane Katrina still hovers as a prominent backdrop to so many things, Crosby thanked NAMB and Southern Baptists for the many ministry efforts that have focused on the city in the last three years.

"New Orleans is still a mission field," he said during the Oct. 6 service.

David Hankins, executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, echoed Crosby's remarks. "There is no better example of partnership than the efforts we have seen here in Louisiana since Katrina," he said. "We are grateful that you came to our rescue. We are seeing thousands come to Christ who otherwise might not have had it not been for this crisis."

Some of those commissioned, like Shani Holland, Julia Parker,

Stacy Rains, and Debbie and Phil Smith, serve on the mission field in New Orleans or elsewhere in Louisiana. Others are serving as far away as Nome, Alaska, and Alberta and Newfoundland, Canada.

Several commissioned are serving in and around NAMB's current Strategic Focus Cities, Baltimore and San Diego.

Jeff Christopherson, a national missionary for urban church planting in the greater Toronto area, said 10 million people reside in the region. "We have a goal of starting 250 churches by 2020," he told those in the congregation, asking for their prayers.

Church planter Matt Smith of La Jolla, Ca., told of his efforts to share Christ among the intellectual elite. "We are boldly challenging the false faith of an unbelieving world," Smith said.

He shared the story of the son of a prominent leader of a Middle East terrorist organization who has recently joined the church and is boldly speaking out against Islam. Smith asked for prayers as pressure and persecution from radical adherents to Islam are sure to come in the days ahead.



SURROUNDED BY PRAYER — As Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director Wanda Lee led in prayer, 108 North American Mission Board missionaries were surrounded by attendees at their commissioning service at First Church in New Orleans on October 6. (BP photo by John Swain)

The ministries of the missionaries commissioned were as diverse and widespread as their ethnicity and geographic location:

- Lois Sylvia points women to Christ at a crisis pregnancy center in Merced, Ca.

- Hannah Schofield resources Hispanic pastors in Raleigh, N.C., helping them more effectively reach the community for Christ.

- Perry Robinson serves as a chaplain with the Arkansas Department of Community Correction in Little Rock.

- Stacy Rains leads children and teen Bible programs at the Rachel Sims Baptist Mission in New Orleans, the oldest Baptist mission in North America.

- Erica Mickels shares Christ through life coaching in Philadelphia.

- Christopher Ortiz is reaching the urban area in Manhattan's Lower East Side.

- Danny Ray, a hospice chaplain in Tifton, Ga., told the service, "I don't teach people how to die. I teach people how to live."

Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director Wanda Lee

led the congregation in prayer for the missionaries.

In his commissioning message, Hammond told the missionaries, "We are celebrating your calling tonight, but we also want to confirm that you have been sent by the Father." Jesus' ministry on earth was to "do the work of the Father," he said in speaking from John 4.

"Our prayer is that His plans become your plans and His work becomes your work," Hammond said. "It is an act of obedience," he noted. "You are not just called, you are sent. Your greatest challenge will be to do the will of Him who sent you. Not just what you want to do."

Hammond reminded the missionaries "we cannot reap without sowing," challenging them to keep sowing the Gospel even when they don't see a harvest. "If we sow in tears, we will reap with joy," he said.

*Editor's note: Visit [www.namb.net](http://www.namb.net) for a complete photo gallery of the New Orleans missionary commissioning service.*



## MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

### THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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### MBC ANNUAL MEETING '08

The Church Planting Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will host its annual Church Planter's Appreciation Banquet Oct. 28, 5 pm, in the Baptist Building Chapel. For information or reservations contact: Scheryl Ng, [sng@mcbcb.org](mailto:sng@mcbcb.org), or call (601) 292-3361. Deadline for reservations is Oct. 15.

The annual meeting of the Mississippi alumni of Southwestern Seminary will be Oct. 28, noon, in the chapel dining room of First Church, Jackson. Tickets are \$11 and may be purchased from Paul Blanchard, Winston Association, P.O. Box 867, Louisville, MS 39339. Email [amd@winstonbaptist.org](mailto:amd@winstonbaptist.org) or call (662) 773-3366. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Acts 1:8 dinner, Oct. 27, 5 p.m., at First Church, Jackson, Fellowship Hall West. The dinner includes testimonies from Ray & Pat Spence, Great Commissionaries, Robbie Johnson, church planter, and Tommy Gillion, Disaster Relief. For more information or reservations, contact Laura Marler before Oct. 13 at [lmarler@mcbcb.org](mailto:lmarler@mcbcb.org).

New Orleans Seminary alumni luncheon, Oct. 28, noon, at First Church, Jackson, in Fellowship Hall West. Tickets are available at the door or at the NOBTS exhibit booth.

Mississippi College complimentary alumni breakfast, chapel dining room, First Church, Jackson, Oct. 28, 7:30—9 a.m. Meal includes fruit, sausage & biscuits, orange juice, coffee, etc.

### Iraqis protest

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Hundreds of Christians staged street protests around Iraq's northern city of Mosul Sept. 28, protesting the abolition of a quota system that guaranteed they would be represented in Iraq's parliament. Critics of the new law said it was designed to force the country's few remaining Christians and religious minorities to leave Iraq and Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki appealed for the decision to be reversed. "I think some political groups are pushing the remaining Christians to leave Iraq," Afram Razzaq-Allah told the Associated Press after he attended services at a Catholic church in Baghdad. "They want us to feel that we are no longer Iraqis." Many Iraqi Christians have fled the country because Muslim militants have relentlessly threatened and attacked them. Authorities have not moved decisively to protect them. Meanwhile, in Great Britain a network of Islamic courts is now deciding some legal cases submitted to them under a 1996 law that allows arbitration tribunals to hand down rulings that are binding in law. The Muslim Arbitration Tribunal courts have been recognized by the British government to rule on cases ranging from divorce and financial disputes to those involving domestic violence, according to the Sunday Times newspaper. They operate in a manner similar to Jewish courts that have resolved civil disputes for more than 100 years. Critics have expressed concern that the establishment of Islamic courts could lead to a parallel legal system. Earlier this year, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams suggested the establishment of Islamic sharia law in Britain seemed "unavoidable."

JOY N.  
M. NASH

### Looking back

10 years ago

Mississippi pastors are still below the average of thirteen southern states in compensation according to a recent study by Don Spencer, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

20 years ago

Foreign Mission Board president Keith Parks challenges FMB trustees to lead Southern Baptists from the discord that jeopardizes the denomination to "an unswerving progress toward world evangelization." Trustees rose in applause at the conclusion of Parks' remarks.

50 years ago

The new \$100,000 building of Easthaven Church, Brookhaven, is dedicated October 5. The church has a membership of 350, with 101 additions in the past eight months.



**YOU CAN RESPOND  
RIGHT NOW!**

*Simply share the following prayer  
with God in your own words:*

**1. Lord, I admit that I need you.  
(I have sinned.)**

**2. I want forgiveness for my  
sins and freedom from eternal  
death. (I repent.)**

**3. I believe Jesus died and rose  
from the grave to forgive my  
sins and to restore my relationship  
with you.  
(I believe in Jesus.)**

**4. By faith, I invite Jesus  
Christ into my life. From this  
time on, I want to live in a loving  
relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior  
and Lord.)**

*"But as many as received him,  
to them he gave the right to become  
children of God, even to those who  
believe in his name." (John 1:12)*

*If you make a decision for  
Jesus Christ today, contact a  
local Baptist church for spiritual  
guidance.*

## FABULOUS FUNERALS

I do not enjoy going to funerals. They are not fun experiences. You never get used to dealing with the sudden loss of a friend or a loved one. Funerals may be encouraging, uplifting, challenging, and meaningful, but they are not happy times. Through the years, I have officiated at many funerals, and even now it seems like almost every week I am at one or more funerals. Honestly, I would have to say that many of them are fabulous funerals. In fact, oftentimes as I am writing Directions I am tempted to focus on a fantastic saint who has gone on to be with the Lord. I could almost make this column into a Baptist obituary column, for we are losing some wonderful servants of the Lord.

I confess that today I cannot help but feel compelled to write about two great saints who have touched my life. On October 6 and October 7, I attended their memorial services. They were fabulous funerals. These two men whose lives intersected with each other at times also intersected with my life at various times on various levels.

Dr. Landrum P. Leavell, II, and Dr. Bob Simmons completed their journeys each at 81 years, but if you reflect upon their lives and service to the Lord, you would wonder how all they did and the way they did it could be compacted into a hundred years.

Dr. Simmons' memorial service was at Fifteenth Avenue Church, Meridian, where he had served as pastor at one time.

Dr. Leavell's memorial service was at New Orleans Seminary where he had served as president for 20 years.

Both of these men were preachers, teachers, and faithful servants of the Lord. They traveled the world touching lives for Jesus. One day I sat in a church filled with friends and family of Dr. Simmons. The next day I sat in the seminary chapel packed with family, friends, faculty, and some students who knew Dr. Leavell only by reputation. The services were very different but equally moving and encouraging. As I sat there in the services with thousands in attendance, I was blessed again and again by the many ways that these two men had touched my life. Both of them had planted their spirit in me.



# Directions

**Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board**

I do not understand how that happens, but it does. I think of Elisha requesting of Elijah that he would give him a double portion of his spirit. Some of that experience I understand, but there is much more that I do not understand. I do know that somehow God does something of His grace work in our lives through His servants. I have known many people over these years, and not all of them have touched my life to affect it for the Lord. At the same time I have known other people who stand head and shoulders above most, and I believe they have left a mark on me from the Lord.

Dr. Leavell was the president of NOBTS when I was working on my master and doctorate degrees. As a student I had met him, admired him, and kept a safe distance from him, as students tend to do. Dr. Simmons taught missions at the seminary, and though I never had the privilege of sitting in his class, I knew him. When I came to serve as executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, he was on the Convention Board.

During those years, I came to know him better and better and what a blessing he was. Following seminary days, I would see Dr. Leavell pretty often, and then at some point he honored me with the privilege of preaching in Chapel, bringing the commencement address one year at graduation, and giving me other opportunities to speak at the Seminary. With every touch, conversation, and interaction with these two men, they were being who they were as they helped me to become what God wanted me to be. The second thing that I noticed about these two men is the way they touched lives far beyond themselves. Virtually everyone has a sphere of influence that may be little more than arm's length. Their distance reached around the world. It is just a personal observation, but it seems to me that when a person has true greatness his influence reaches far and wide and he recognizes it less and less. In both cases, these men became the embodiment of the truth spoken in Scripture of Abel. "He being dead yet speaketh" (Heb. 11:4b). You

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can see, hear, and be touched by their lives, by people whom they influenced, and especially by their own children.

A final thought about these two fabulous funerals and these two great servants is that they live on. I am not talking about their memory living on, I am talking about they live on. They served the Jesus that transcends life and death into everlasting life. They live on! Dr. Bob Simmons told friends and especially family, "If I don't wake up tomorrow, have a party." We will all miss him, but at the same time, we partied.

Dr. Leavell lives on. His favorite song was Sweet Beulah Land. At his memorial service, Squire Parsons, the man who wrote and probably has sung it several thousand times, was there to bless our hearts as he pointed us again to the everlasting land of Jesus, Sweet Beulah Land.

They live on, and now those of us who remain must do likewise. We must be good stewards of our time, talents, and life to be invested for our Lord.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

## NIS POSITIONS

**SEEKING PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC:** Gillburg Baptist Church, Gillburg, Miss., searching for a minister of music. Mail resumes for this position or the interim position to Chris Teasley at 6126 MS Hwy 568, Osyka, MS, 39657 or call 601-542-1230.

**PIANIST NEEDED: TRACE RIDGE** Baptist Church in Ridgeland, Miss., for Sunday am & pm services and choir practice before evening service. Call Beverly King at 601-992-2855.

**CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH IN** Brookhaven, MS, is seeking a full-time worship Leader to lead a contemporary worship ministry. Please send resumes to 749 North Jackson St., Brookhaven, MS, 39601 or email to ryan@cfcbrookhaven.org.

**DERMA BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING** a full-time youth minister with a passion for God and students. Needs to be willing to join the staff team in a way to help fulfill the church's mission. Send resume to Derma Baptist Church, 213 Main St., Derma, MS 38839 or call 662-628-6635.

**HOLCOMB BAPTIST CHURCH,** Holcomb, Miss., is seeking a part-time youth minister. Please send resume to Holcomb Baptist Church, Attention Youth Search Committee, 109 Highway 35 South, Holcomb, MS. 38940.

**VALLEY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH,** Pontotoc, Miss., is seeking a pastor. Please send resume and references in c/o Johnson, 352 North Main Street, Pontotoc, MS 38863.

**IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH,** Cleveland, MS, is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resumes to Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 302, Rosedale, MS 38769. Deadline November 1, 2008.

**PELAHATCHIE BAPTIST CHURCH IS** seeking a part-time Minister of Music for Worship Services, Adult, youth, and children's choirs. Please forward resume to the Pelahatchie Baptist Church, search committee, P O Box 876, Pelahatchie, MS 39145, attn: Due McKinion. Email: due@rankincounty.org.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR RENT, FT. WALTON BCH, FL,** Beautiful Gulf Front-2 bedroom condominium on Okaloosa Island. Lots of amenities and planned activity for Fall and Winter. Special rates by Owner. Contact Lucy at 770-831-3651 or email SGLucy@wmconnect.com.

**FOR RENT: 3 BDR 3 BTH DUPLEX,** Gulf Shores AL, 601-362-6965.

**PARKVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH IN** Baton Rouge, LA is searching for an executive pastor. Please submit resumes to the Search Committee, P.O. Box 40712, Baton Rouge, LA 70835-0712.

**FBC, FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA, IS** seeking a full-time family minister. To request job description email wayne@ferridayfbc.com; send resume to FBC Search committee, P.O. Box 386, Ferriday, Louisiana 71334.

**CONDO IN GATLINBURG FOR RENT:** 2 bedrm, 2 bath, full kitchen. Walking distance to parkway, \$70.00/nite. Call for information 281-855-4469 or 832-922-0101/0141. Email pdiw4760@att.net.

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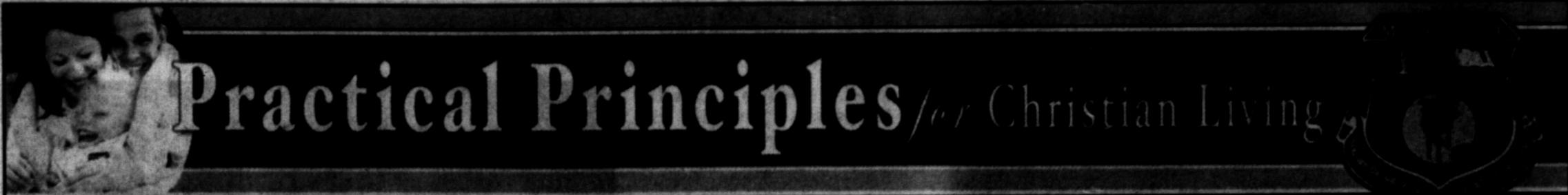
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A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION • VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 5

## Discombobulated?

By Jimmy Porter  
Miss. Baptist Christian Action Comm.

Are you discombobulated? Recently I used that word in a sentence and my friend asked, "Are you sure that is a word or is it one you made up?" Discombobulated is a fifteen letter, six-syllable word that means confused and/or upset. It is possible that you are or soon will be discombobulated. With a heated presidential election on the horizon and the state of our economy, it is easy to be upset and confused.

Recently the stock market has fallen like Humpty Dumpty, and I am not sure our government knows how to put it back together. In fact, I am discombobulated over the fact that corporate greed and lax controls have cost you and me 700 billion dollars in bailing out the market. In fact, the American Family Association recently published an article stating that, as a result of this fiasco, every member of your family now owes \$37,667.00. A recent Rasmussen poll



Porter

suggested that 59% of the voters would vote to replace the entire congress. Today when I viewed my retirement fund that sounded like a good idea.

In about three weeks we will be choosing our President for the next four years. Like many of you I have listened to the presidential debates along with the vice-presidential debate and came away with a multitude of emotions. It seems every major news outlet and TV network has a poll that too often reflects their biases. Therefore, it is very difficult to get an accurate read on how the candidates are doing and how they stand with the American public. It is discombobulating having to wade through all the half-truths and outright lies spewed out in the name of politics.

How does it all stack up? Presidential Candidate, Senator John McCain is very well known due to his tenure in the Senate while Senator Barack Obama is relatively unknown having served only two years in the

U.S. Senate. On the other hand, Vice Presidential Candidate, Senator Joe Biden has many years in the Senate while Governor Sarah Palin is the new kid on the block.

Most agree that Senator McCain has the most experience in foreign affairs and in protecting our country. Without a doubt Senator Biden is more knowledgeable in foreign policy than Governor Palin. So I have to ask, "Whom do I desire to be lacking in foreign policy and national security—the President or the Vice President?"

Senator McCain has been in Washington for quite a while and must be considered a part of the establishment while Senator Obama is relatively new. Therefore, I must consider, "Do I prefer someone who 'knows the ropes' or someone who will view things differently?" Also, I have to decide who I think will be the best choice to handle domestic affairs and the economy. Are you discombobulated yet?

All of the above are important but much more must be considered in this election. You must know how they each stand on life, civil rights, energy, human trafficking, immigration, national security, terrorism, judicial

appointments, economy, same-sex marriage, abortion, health care, etc. How can you find answers to these and other important issues?

Our website, ChristianAction.com, has the 2008 Presidential Voter Guide that compares the views of the Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates and a few selected issues of the Democratic and Republican platform. Also, you can find the Party Platform Comparison Resource on the site if you desire more detailed information on each party. These items can be downloaded and shared with friends and neighbors.

The Christian Action Commission asks you to be informed on the issues and to vote your convictions on NOV. 4. You owe it to yourself, your children and grandchildren, and to your country to vote and preserve the freedoms granted to us by God and the faithful men and women who have given their lives in combat. Your vote counts!!

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3332 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 332. E-mail: jporter@christianaction.com.

## Landrum P. Leavell II memorialized at NOBTS service

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) paused October 7 to celebrate and remember the life, ministry, and legacy of President Emeritus Landrum P. Leavell II.

Leavell, who led the seminary from 1975-95, died September 26 in Wichita Falls, Texas. He was remembered as a family man, a pastor, a preacher, a visionary leader, and a Christ-follower who genuinely cared about people.

The worship and memorial service included a eulogy from Nelson Price, former NOBTS trustee and longtime friend of Leavell, and a testimony from Leavell's son, Roland Q. Leavell II, a member of First Church, Jackson. Composer and musician Squire Parsons sang Leavell's favorite song, Sweet Beulah Land.

The service was held in the Roland Q. Leavell Chapel, named for Leavell's uncle who served as NOBTS president from 1946-56. The Leavell family legacy also is evident at the campus in the naming of Leavell College, the seminary's undergraduate college; the Leavell Center for Evangelism and Church Health; and an endowed faculty chair in New Testament and Greek.

During the service, NOBTS President Chuck Kelley read John 1:1-16. Leavell was one who, like John the Baptist, pointed to the Savior, Kelley said, noting, "As was John the Baptist, so was Dr. Landrum P. Leavell II — a herald of light, a herald of the truth."

Kelley then sought to "paint a portrait" of the former seminary leader for the many students, professors and staff

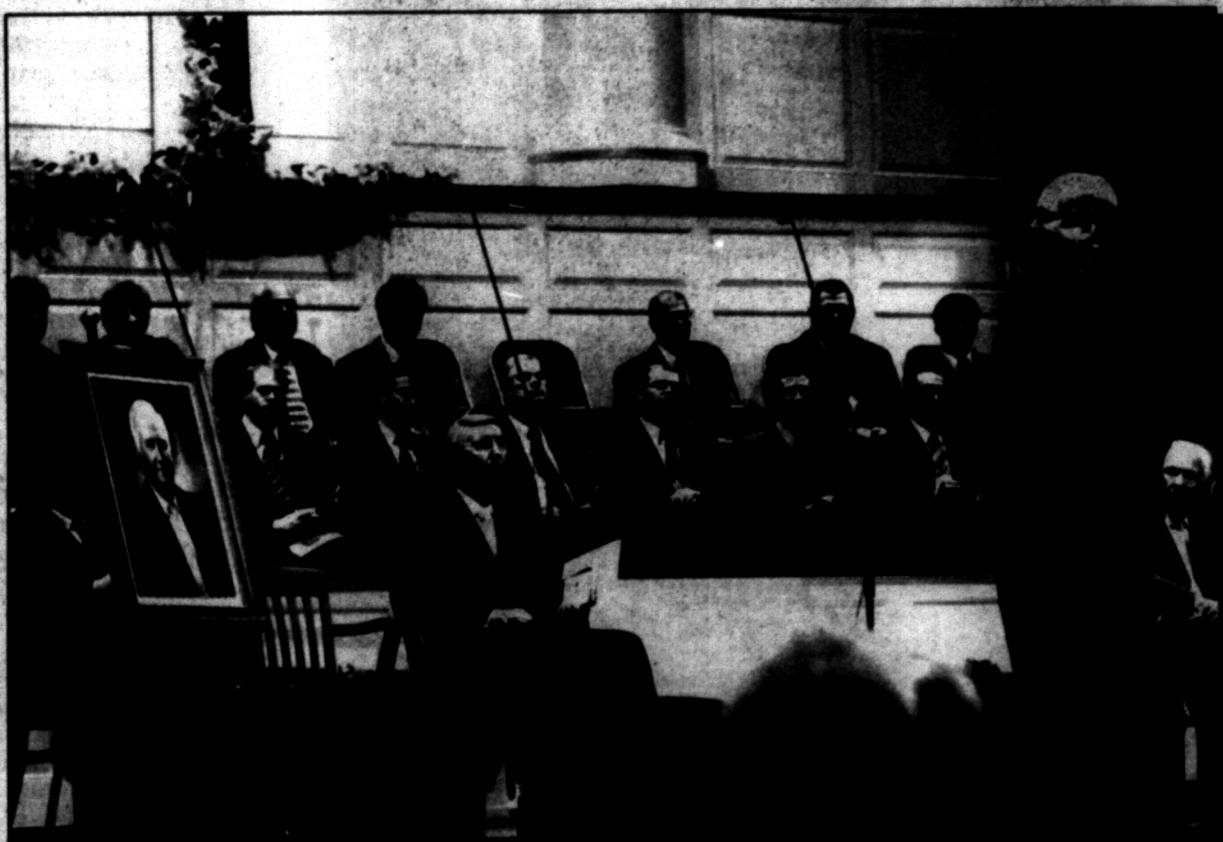
members who did not have a chance to personally know Leavell. Kelley did so by borrowing from one of Leavell's sermons.

First and foremost, Leavell wanted his students to study, know, and understand the Bible.

"Truly he was a man of The Book," Kelley said. "He knew that the Bible was the Word of God. He knew it was inspired, that it was absolutely true. He knew this Gospel had the power to transform any human life." Kelley described how Leavell spent time in God's Word each day, expected others to do the same, and to hold the Bible above every other book.

Leavell cherished time with his wife and children in spite of his busy schedule. "There ought to be in the life of a godly man a passionate commitment to both your ministry and to your family," Kelley said. "I have never known a day in the life of Landrum P. Leavell II that his family was not at the top of his agenda. He loved them, he cared for them, and he incorporated them into his life in ministry."

"(T)his is the one thing Dr. Leavell would want you to take away from his life in ministry is to understand that it's all about people," Kelley said. "People matter to God. Ministry is all about people. So many of us are here in this room because this man invested in our lives. I know he invested in mine."



REMEMBERING LEAVELL — New Orleans Seminary President Chuck Kelley looks at a portrait of Landrum P. Leavell II during an October 7 service honoring the past president. Leavell, who led the seminary from 1975-95, died September 26. (BP photo by Boyd Guy)

Kelley closed his message with the image of a relay race. In a relay race, many runners participate on a team, each passing a baton to the next runner when his or her portion of the race is done.

"Dr. Leavell would want every one

of us to know that we are not here to commemorate the finish of a race," Kelley said. "He would want you to know that we are celebrating the end of a leg of a relay, for he is passing the baton to you and me. The race isn't over until Jesus comes."

## JUST FOR THE RECORD



**3. Galilee Church groundbreaking**



**4. First Church, Charleston, mission team**



**5. Simmons ordination, N. Columbia Church, Columbia**



**6. Helping Hands, Central Church, McComb**

**1.** West Corinth Church, Corinth, is hosting the free Least of These Tour concert at the Alcorn County Crossroads Arena, featuring New Song, Aaron Shust, Francesca Battistelli, and speaker Tony Nolan. Doors open 4:30 p.m. A love offering will be received. For more information, visit [www.westcorinthbaptist.com](http://www.westcorinthbaptist.com).

**2.** Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, is hosting a community singing with the Cedar View Singers and The Peppers Oct. 18, 6 p.m.

**3.** Galilee Church, Rockport, held a groundbreaking ceremony Aug. 17 for their new fellowship building. Shown are the participants.

**4.** First Church, Charleston, sent a mission team to Hildalgo, Mexico, Oct. 4 – 10. Shown are Eloise Brewer, Marilyn Arnold, pastor John Price, Sheri Breland, and Blane Breland.

**5.** North Columbia Church, Columbia, ordained Joey Simmons as deacon Sept. 7. Shown are pastor Mike Grend, Simmons, and Tammy Simmons.

**6.** Helping Hands of Central Church, McComb, performed several numbers at Lynn Meadows Children's Museum, Gulfport, Sept. 20. Shown are Bill Stephenson, Donald Ray Magee, LaDonavon Nelson, Sherrie Wall, Tonya Coney, Marty Davis, Stacey Lang, and Troy Ford.

**7.** First Church, Collinsville, ordained Wayne Buchanan, Jodi Bates, and Ike Ethridge as deacons Oct. 5. Shown are Buchanan, Claire Buchanan, Bates, Mandy Bates, Ethridge, Tracy Ethridge, and pastor Hal Bates.

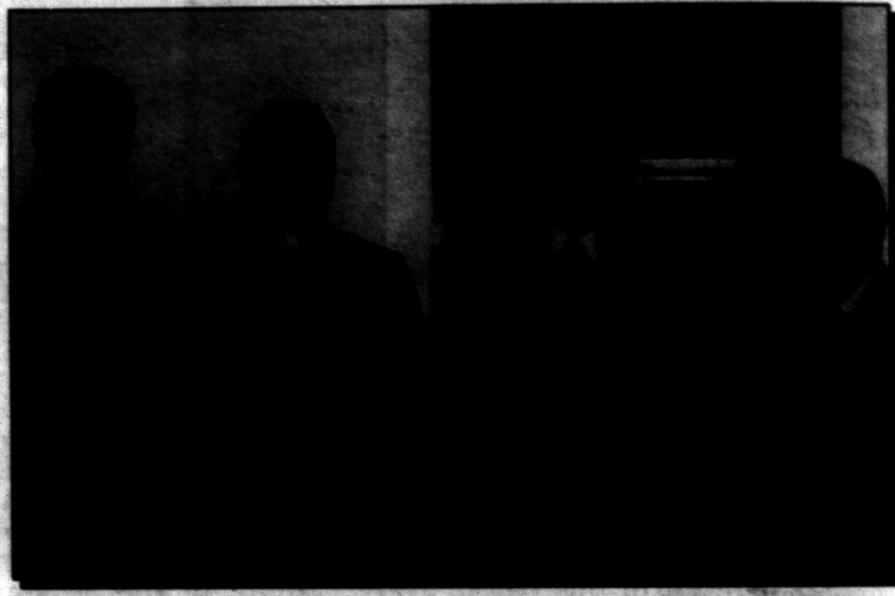
**8.** Bluff Springs Church, Magnolia, recently ordained Mel Fortenberry as deacon. Shown are Victor Walsh, Fortenberry, Bob Lynch, and David Millican.

**9.** Harmony Hill Church, Burnsville: VBS, July; average attendance, 280; high attendance, 315; four professions of faith.

**10.** A group organized as Calvary Chapel, Parchman, 16th annual Mexico Mission is seen on the balcony of Hotel Colonial. The team from 21 churches did medical, dental, eye, VBS, Bible distribution, and construction missions.



**7. Deacon ordination, First Church, Collinsville**



**8. Fortenberry ordination, Bluff Springs Church, Magnolia**



**9. Harmony Hill Church VBS**



**10. Calvary Chapel mission team**

## JUST FOR THE RECORD



11. See You at the Pole



12. Children's building, First Church, Hattiesburg



13. Bethel Church, Lawrence Association



14. Campers on Mission, Jasper County Association



15. Courtney ordination, First Church Wiggins

11. Students from Ingomar Church, Fredonia Church, Martin Church, and Liberty Church, Union County, participated in See You at the Pole Sept. 24. Blue Mountain College provided breakfast for all participants. Shown are the participants.
12. Friendship Church, Aberdeen, recently ordained Emitte (Butch) Robertson. Shown are Mary Ann Robertson, Robertson, and pastor Mark Thornton.
22. Youth from Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto, attended M-Fuge at Belmont College, Nashville, Tenn. Shown are the participants.



21. Robertson ordination, Friendship Church, Aberdeen



22. Youth, Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto

13. Willow Pointe Church, Hattiesburg, is sponsoring a Fall Festival Oct. 29, 6 - 8:30 p.m. with games, crafts, food, and more. For more information, (601) 296-0555.

14. First Church, Newton, is hosting the Mike Speck Trio in concert Oct. 19, 6 p.m. A love offering will be received.

15. North Long Beach Church, Long Beach, will host a fall festival Nov. 8, 4 - 7 p.m. Free. Charles Bonner, pastor.

16. First Church, Caledonia, will have dedication services for their initial worship/ministry building Nov. 9. Services, 10 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and afternoon singing. Mike Smith, pastor.

17. Hopewell Church, Crystal Springs, will ordain Ricky Chapa, Kevin Clark, and Billy Ragland as deacons Oct. 19 in the morning service, followed by a reception. Don Kleeb, pastor.

18. Bethel Church, Lawrence Association, GAs sponsored a World Crafts event Oct. 5. Shown are the participants.

19. A group of Campers on Mission recently returned to the Jasper County Association office to clean and repaint the outside of the office building and Care Center. Shown are the participants.

20. First Church, Wiggins, recently ordained Sean Courtney as deacon. Shown are Courtney and pastor Wiley Abel.

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For information, brochure & letter from Rev. Williams call:  
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## STATE CHANGES

1. Harmony Hill Church, Burnsville, has called Seth Kirkland as pastor. He received his education at Blue Mountain College and is pursuing a master's degree through New Orleans Seminary. He is shown with his wife Kim and children Allie Grace and Elijah.
2. Corinth Church, Tallahatchie County, has called Archie Goodwin as pastor effective Sept. 21. He had served as interim pastor for the past 15 months. He has pastored seven different churches prior to Corinth, most recently First Church, Mathiston. He is shown with his wife Rhonda.
3. First Church Oloh, Sumrall, has called James Moore as pastor. He is a graduate of Mid-America Seminary and has served churches in Arkansas, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi. He is shown with his wife Amy and daughters London and Sydney.
4. Bethsaida Church, Philadelphia, has called Josh Meadows as youth minister. He is shown with his wife Jamie and pastor Billy James.

# Review: Billy Graham bio 'compelling'

By Phil Boatwright  
Baptist Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (BP) — "I purchased the Love Dare book for my daughter and her husband. They saw it (the movie Fireproof) Friday night and my son-in-law went to church today for the first time in about 5 years."

A fellow church member sent that e-mail to me concerning the effect the film and the 40-day marriage saver featured in Fireproof are having on her family. Wow, if you'd made a movie, wouldn't you love to hear of such an effect made thanks to the Holy Spirit blessing your effort?

For a change, there's some dynamic entertainment hitting the movie theaters. In addition to Fireproof (PG) which is in its third weekend, Billy: The Early Years, a bio on Billy Graham, opens in theaters this weekend.

I feared Billy: The Early Years (PG) would fall into the same trap as most biographical efforts by aggrandizing the spotlighted famous figure or reducing supporting characters to caricatures, but it somewhat surprised and definitely pleased me with the lush look and smart script.

The producers wisely peppered their cast of characters with seasoned showfolk. Martin Landau (Ed Wood, Crimes and Misdemeanors) is poignant as Charles



Boatwright

Templeton and Lindsay Wagner, the one-time Bionic Woman, infuses her small but pivotal role as Billy's mother with dimension and a transcendent plainness.

However, you can't have a film about Billy Graham without an effective lead actor. Fortunately, Armie Hammer fits the bill. The young Mr. Hammer (Veronica Mars, Flicka) captures the look, mannerisms, and most importantly, the inner motivation of Graham.

The stand-out moment is Billy's conversion. I've seen enough conversion scenes in "church movies" (and even have been in a few) that seemed forced and phony. Here, the ethereal transformation is done so effectively that it will likely cause some viewers to summon up the moment the Holy Spirit introduced them to Christ.

Very possibly, nonbelievers will sense something intangible but real, with the power to change a life's direction.

Despite a limp title that begs ridicule, this take on a man willing to say, "Take me Lord, just as I am," is compelling, inspiring, and downright entertaining.

*Editor's note: Phil Boatwright reviews films for previewonline.org and is a regular columnist for Baptist Press. Billy: The Early Years is rated PG (historical film footage of holocaust victims; a dying, bloodied child wheeled on a gurney through a hospital).*

## REVIVALS AND HOME COMINGS

1. Steep Hollow Church, Pearl River Association: 100th anniversary, Oct. 19.
2. Eastabuchie Church, Eastabuchie: 125th anniversary and homecoming, Oct. 19; services, 10 a.m., followed by lunch; Tommy King and George Berger, speakers.
3. First Church, Lexington: Revival, Oct. 19 - 22; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Gary Permenter, speaker; Jim Armstrong, music.
4. Oak Grove Church, Mississippi Association: Homecoming, Oct. 19; services followed by fellowship meal and afternoon music with Dogwood Cross; Joe Jackson, guest speaker.
5. First Church Oloh, Sumrall: Homecoming, Oct. 19; Sunday School, 8:45 a.m.; worship, 10 a.m., followed by covered dish luncheon; James Sanders, speaker; Robert Brewer, music.
6. Pickens Church, Pickens: 125th anniversary, Oct. 19; worship, 11 a.m., followed by noon lunch and 1 p.m. celebration service.
7. Antioch Church, Neshoba County: Homecoming and fish fry, Oct. 18 - 19; fish fry, Sat., 5 p.m.; worship, 7 p.m.; Sun., Sunday School Friend Day 9:45 a.m., services, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; James Young, speaker; Mike Speck, music; Ray Spence, pastor.
8. Blythe Creek Church, Choctaw Association: Homecoming, Oct. 19; noon meal following morning worship, and music featuring A Joyful Noise Quartet, 1:30 p.m.; Mike Fondren, speaker and pastor; Sandra Williams, music.
9. Ford's Creek Church, Poplarville: Homecoming, Oct. 19; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered-dish lunch and singing by The Sullivans; Jimmy Albritton, speaker.
10. Daniel Memorial Church, Jackson: Homecoming and revival, Oct. 19 - 22; Sun., 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Wed., 7:15 p.m. mini-concert and youth fellowship, 8 p.m.; refreshments nightly; Lawrence Baylot, Dennis Smith, Gary White, Steve Potts, and Bryon Lee Malone, speakers; Ross Johnson and Brad Hartzog, music.
11. Harland Creek Church, Holmes County: Homecoming and revival, Oct. 19 - 22; services, Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Lyn Nations, speaker.
12. Puckett Church, Puckett: Revival, Oct. 19 - 22; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Dan Watts, speaker; Ronnie Cottingham, music.
13. High Hill Church, Neshoba County: Revival, Oct. 19 - 22; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Glenn Jackson, speaker; Mike Barker, music; Ray Files, pastor.
14. Ruth Church, Ruth: Homecoming and revival, Oct. 19 - 22; Sun., 10 a.m., followed by Master's Mark in concert, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Wiley Reid, speaker; Freddie Busby, music.
15. Chunky Church, Chunky: Homecoming and revival, Oct. 19 - 23; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Mon. - Thurs., 7 p.m.; Johnny Collins, speaker; Gary Thorne, music.
16. First Church, Caledonia: Revival, Oct. 19 - 23; Sun., 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Thurs., 7 p.m., preceded by a mini-concert nightly, 6:30 p.m.; Don Lum, speaker; Charlie Farrar, music; Mike Smith, pastor.
17. Strayhorn Church, Strayhorn: Homecoming, Oct. 19; services, 11 a.m., followed by covered-dish lunch and southern Gospel music; Bobby Cossey, speaker; Mike Porter, pastor.



1. The Kirklands



2. The Goodwins



3. The Moores



4. The Meadows and Billy James



1. MC Parents Club



2. Fail-Asbury School of Nursing

1. Beth Stapleton and other Mississippi College faculty are shown serving ice cream at an MC Parents Club event recently. The organization, celebrating its first anniversary, is growing as a new academic year begins. MC parents are forming chapters around the state and across state lines.

2. Nancy and Jody Fail of Bay Springs; Asbury Foundation Board member Harry McArthur of Hattiesburg; and Bill Ray, CEO of the Asbury Foundation, tour the \$1 million expansion to the Fail-Asbury School of Nursing on the William Carey University Hattiesburg campus. The expansion includes a 104-seat lecture hall, faculty offices, state of the art classrooms, conference room, and group study rooms.

3. High school and community college students from throughout the region will visit Blue Mountain College on Oct. 17-18 for 2008 Fall Fest. Students will stay in the residence halls with current BMC students, eat in the dining hall, attend performance of the musical Cinderella by the theatre department, go on a hayride, review the Christian college experience, receive scholarship and financial aid information, and attend mock classes. Parents can also attend Fall Fest. Registration is at 5 p.m., Oct. 17 and the Fall Fest concludes at 1 p.m., Oct. 18. For complete information, (800) 235-0136 or go online at [www.bmc.edu](http://www.bmc.edu).

4. Sherrell Settlemires has been selected as Blue Mountain College's 2008 Humanities Teacher of Year. An English instructor at BMC and a former English teacher at Ripley High, Settlemires will receive her award at the annual Mississippi Humanities Council award dinner in February.



4. Settlemires

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By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004  
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UW, WYIWMX XAW NEX-

AWV PASIA AEXA HWOX

UW TVEP ASU: EOT S PSBB

VESHW ASU DM EX XAW

BEHX TEJ.

QRAO HSY: NRVXJ-NRDV

Clue: T = D

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Mr. & Mrs. Leon Kirby  
Dr. Melissa Holland  
Megan, Josh & Mary Tate Williamson  
Dr. & Mrs. Linquel D. Jayroe  
Sara & John Chilton  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Threadgill  
Dr. Joe Lovelady's SSC, N Oxford BC

### MEMORIALS

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The Robert Sullivans  
Mr. Leroy Allen  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Mrs. Jackie Atkinson  
East Louisville BC  
Mr. Lewis Baer  
Ms. Beezy Johnson  
Albert Balfanz  
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Greg & Cheryl Moore  
Mary Ann D. Hatley  
Mr. & Mrs. William L. Butler  
H. Lowrey Haynie  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. King  
Mother of Kate Hickson  
Mr. Robert T. Jeffries  
Dr. Wendell Holmes  
Mrs. Richard C. Moore Sr.  
Mrs. Virginia Honey  
Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Tramel  
Brother of Amparo Horton  
Glenda & Jerry Fry  
Mrs. Doris Hudson  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Smith  
Ms. Diane Humphrie  
Enon Baptist Church-Louisville  
Kim Hux  
Nell Smith Class, Pleasant Hill BC  
Martha C. Jackson  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank O. Crosthwait Jr.  
Johnny Paul Johnson  
Jim Davis & Family  
Mrs. Dil Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. Archie C. Leggett  
Christine Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry W. Magee  
Mr. Fred Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Smith  
Blondie Kagle  
Bobby & Deanie Stewart  
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Ms. Betty Hatcher  
Edie & Ronnie Gray  
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North MS Industrial Dev Assn  
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Becky & Bob Thomasson  
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Pete Kernop  
Camden Baptist Church  
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Mr. Nolan Le Coq  
Mr. Clarence M. Shannon  
Ms. Marlene Lee  
Mr. Clarence M. Shannon  
Martha Livingston  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael W. Betts  
Dorothy Lowe  
Calvary BC Choir, Winchester, VA  
Ladies II-SSC, Calvary BC-Winchester, VA  
Mrs. Virginia T. Lundy  
Mr. & Mrs. Jay Gore III  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl DeLoach & Lindsey  
Mr. Kenneth Madison  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Melanie May Mahnke  
Nell Smith SSC, Pleasant Hill BC  
Betty Malone  
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Mary Arne Day  
Shellie Day  
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Jean & Scott Hines  
Mr. & Mrs. Buddy Huff  
Janis & George Puckett  
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Mr. & Mrs. Dan H. Brady  
Mr. & Mrs. George R. Day  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Clement  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond F. Quinn  
Donald R. McCrory  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Lorene McCrary  
Mr. & Mrs. Don Perkins  
Teresa McPhail  
Friendship SSC, Valley Park BC  
Mrs. Eleanor Morris  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve C. Johnson  
John A. Munn  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Freddie H. Murff  
Ms. Norma H. Kohl  
Dr. Charles Nail  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Smith  
David Owens  
Paul & Millie Sellars  
John Pace  
Bobette F. Cole  
Ramona Walters  
Bennie Pee  
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Mr. & Mrs. Billy Pyron  
Mr. Bob Ogden  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter T. Burns Jr.  
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Sister of Larned Rawlins  
Glenda & Jerry Fry  
Thelma Remmey  
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Mrs. Lorene B. Russ  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Smith  
Mr. Billy Rigg  
Mr. Darrell B. Nail  
Mr. William Kent Rigg  
Mississippi Development Authority  
Gray Swoope  
Mr. Maurice Robinson  
Mr. & Mrs. Charlie J. Clark  
Mrs. Essie Rae Robinson  
Mr. & Mrs. Jamie Edwards  
Steven Rodgers  
Bobbie J. Dickey  
Frances Livingston  
Holly Saunders  
Murphy & Merry Anne Jones  
Mamie Savoy  
Stanton BC-Natchez  
Gloria Sawyer  
Watkins SSC, FBC-Collins  
Mrs. Allyne Statham  
Terry Sawyer  
Mrs. Gerry McGraw  
Mrs. Margaret Scott  
Charlotte Bryan  
Lisa Jordan  
Vickie Myers  
Sarah Scott

Mrs. Mattie Sue Shelby  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas E. Warnock  
Mrs. Sue Shelby  
Valley Park BC  
The Jerry Graham Family  
The Sanford Holiday Family  
The Clifton Porter Family  
Mrs. Grace Porter  
Vivian Shute  
Dr. & Mrs. Bernard M. Taylor  
Mr. Mike Simpson  
Mr. & Mrs. Terry E. Champion  
Spring Sims  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Linda Faye Skelton  
Stanton BC-Natchez  
Frances Topp Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank O. Crosthwait Jr.  
Mrs. Kathleen Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Rex Cowart  
Mrs. Nell Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Smith  
Mrs. Ruby Speights  
Hettie & Sue Williams  
Mrs. Ruby Stampley  
Mr. & Mrs. Britton Jones  
Elaine Steed  
Mrs. Althea M. Partridge  
Mr. Glenn Stundivant  
Mr. & Mrs. David Denson  
Mr. Edward Thompson  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Mr. Max Thomhill  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry M. Howell  
Mrs. Jessie Toney  
Mr. & Mrs. Rex Cowart  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Reeves  
Mrs. Jessie F. Toney  
Mariette & Hollis Tara  
Ms. Jessie Toney  
Ms. Jean McCord

Nella Mae Trask  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Marvin Turnipseed  
Paul & Millie Sellars  
Andrea Tynes  
Mr. & Mrs. Jackie Wooley & Jordan  
Mrs. Fay Van Wye  
Chris & Sandra Frederick  
Mrs. Sarah C. Scott  
Mrs. Frances Wooten  
Ladies Ensemble  
Midway BC-Jackson  
Pleasant Hill BC-Carthage  
Mr. & Mrs. James Alford  
Mrs. Sudie Vance  
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins  
Mr. Jim Varinadore  
Ms. Tracy L. Cook  
Mr. James Dale "Bud" Vickers  
Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Morgan  
Prentiss & Ilene Alliston  
Mr. & Mrs. Wiley Wallace  
Bud & Travelene Gillis  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank L. Morgan  
Mr. David B. Harrelson  
Timmy & Linda Shaw  
Mr. & Mrs. Mancel Fulce  
Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Morgan  
Mrs. Velma Walker  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Shows  
Grandmother of Denise Webb  
Glenda & Jerry Fry  
Mrs. Mavis Wells  
Mrs. Kelly Pyron  
Shirley White  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Hockley  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark A. McConnell  
Lindsay Wilson  
Mrs. Pat Duckworth  
Mary Dee Lansing Young  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Reeves

## HOW WE CAN HELP YOUR FAMILY

### The Baptist Children's Village Admission Procedures

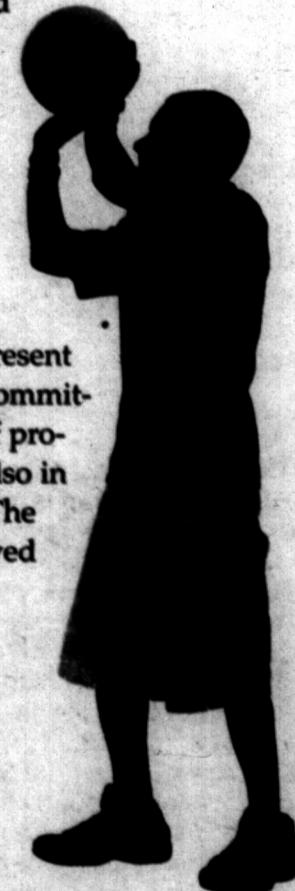
The mission of The Baptist Children's Village is to help children and their families fully understand and experience the healing ministry of Christ by meeting their daily needs, and inspiring them to become Christian adults who are happy, healthy and mature.

About 300 children are touched through this mission each year, on one of the 7 campuses of The Baptist Children's Village located across Mississippi.

If you are a parent, grandparent, legal guardian or public agency representative who needs the services of The BCV, the following information will direct you through The Baptist Children's Village admissions process.

1. The legal custodian of the child should call (601) 922-2242 and ask to speak with the Intake Coordinator. The Intake Coordinator will seek to determine if the applicant is a candidate for Emergency Care, Extended Care, or if referral to another resource better meets the family needs.
  - If immediate care is considered to be the best option, and if there are beds available, the child's admission is scheduled with the Emergency Care Counselor.
2. When a completed application is returned, with necessary documents, an Intake Study is scheduled. Most studies are scheduled weekly on Monday and/or Friday. The study is conducted by the Intake Social Worker and is approximately two hours in length. The legal guardian and child or children will need to be present.
3. After the intake study is complete, the Intake Social Worker will present the application to the Admissions Committee for approval. This committee meets weekly and the members of this committee are a team of professionals that includes a Clinical Psychologist and Counselors. Also in Attendance are the Intake Coordinator, and other qualified staff. The committee will determine if the needs of applicant can be best served by the services of The Baptist Children's Village.

For more information on The Baptist Children's Village admission procedures call 601-922-2242 or go to [www.baptistchildrensvillage.com](http://www.baptistchildrensvillage.com).



# BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

## All Christians Struggle With Sin

Romans 7:9-25



McKay

By Bobby McKay

I have always enjoyed reading church signs. These one line lessons in theology are usually worth repeating. There is a church located a few miles south of Mendenhall whose statements have led me to reflect, smile, and even confess. One recent declaration should speak to all of us. It read: "Dear God, I have a problem...it's me!" Talk about a sentence that packs a punch, this one would definitely qualify.

It has been my experience with people that many deny the struggle that sin can have on the Christian life. Think for just a moment of the many things people do in the attempt to justify their sins. Perhaps the most prevalent method we use in regard to

our sin is the blame game. It does not take long to find in the Scriptures where the blame game began. When God questioned Adam about the sin he had committed, Adam blamed Eve. Eve deferred to the serpent. Many times we are no different. We blame our society, our parents, our friends, or the devil. The reality is, we are the ones to blame and should accept responsibility for our sin.

We need to come to the realization that every believer struggles with sin. The fact that everyone struggles is not an excuse to sin, but rather should serve as a reminder of our need to daily pursue the Father and His righteousness. We wrestle with the desires of the flesh, whether it is an addictive behavior, a critical spirit, or

unforgiveness. We also long to be a person that is pleasing and used by God, wherein lies the struggle of every believer.

We would all do well to read the 17 verses covered in this week's lesson. Can you feel the struggle and sense the anguish the author is attempting to convey? Now think about this; these are the words of the Apostle Paul. The same Paul who is credited with writing two-thirds of the New Testament. The same Paul who is considered the greatest intellectual and theological mind of the first century. While you and I do not share these accolades with him, we do share the dual tug of the flesh and the new way of life found in Christ.

Mississippi native and pastor Ed Young of Second Baptist Church in Houston, Texas, shares a story about this tug. He calls this tug in our lives "the cross-pull". He compares the cross-pull to a

wild horse that must be broken. After time, a seasoned cowboy breaks the wild horse and trains it to become submissive and obedient. Now imagine for a moment that the same horse breaks out of its stall and catches up with its old herd. He romps and stomps and his only care is living for the moment.

When the cowboy realizes that the horse is gone, he is troubled and begins to seek out the wayward animal. He finds the horse with the other members of the old herd. He simply whistles a tune that he used to train the horse. The horse hears the familiar melody and now has a decision to make. He can remain with the old crowd or go back to his master. This is the cross-pull. The horse remembers how the master always had his best interest at heart, and provided everything the horse would need to live out its days in peace and security. The horse chooses to follow the master home and leaves the wild herd. We all face times in our walk with the Lord when

we struggle with the old self and want to roam. We should always commit ourselves to believe God's promises more than Satan's lies.

One thing you should note about these verses is the number of pronouns Paul uses. He is not talking down to nor demeaning anyone. He is sharing with you the struggle of his heart. Depending on your translation, the words I, me, and myself appear dozens of times in this passage. Paul expresses godly sorrow over his sin. A genuine believer will view his or her own sinfulness in proportion with the holiness of God. A sin is more than just an oversight; it is a selfish assertion of pride and rejection of God's commands. These thoughts should humble us to the point of brokenness and repentance. Yes, we all struggle with sin. However, let me ask you, are you responding to the call of the Master or are you pulling away to your own desires?

McKay is pastor of Oakvale Church, Oak Vale.

# EXPLORE THE BIBLE

## Cultivate Godly Friendships

1 Samuel 18:1-23:18



Caughman

By Ginger M. Caughman

Friendships make life special. Friends are very dear to me, both old and new friends.

Jonathan, as Saul's eldest son, could have claimed to be the rightful heir as king. He was of noble character, recognized David as God's anointed, and befriended David.

### 1. Commit to Friends

1 Samuel 18

Saul became jealous of David because of his popularity with the people. Many times he tried to kill David (vv. 10-11 and 25b).

God gave David and Jonathan the gift of friendship. They were loyal to God and pledged to be loyal friends to each other. When Saul was seeking to kill David and while David was in flight from Saul, Jonathan encouraged him. "A friend loves at all times" (Prov. 17:17a). Thick

and thin, good times and bad, joy and sorrow, true friends are loyal.

### 2. Defend Friends

1 Samuel 19

King Saul had told Jonathan and the other soldiers to kill David (v. 1a). Jonathan warned David (vv. 1b-2) and pleaded successfully with Saul to reinstate David, which Saul did (vv. 3-7)...for a short time.

Music no longer soothed Saul because he was so consumed with jealousy. In rage Saul threw a spear to kill David (vv. 9-10). David's wife, Michell (18:20, 28) helped David escape (19:11-17).

"Fleeing from Saul's insane attempts upon his life, David became a kind of Robin Hood, a popular hero living in mountain hideouts and gathering followers from among those disenchanted with Saul's leadership" (L. D. Johnson).

Brave David was afraid at

times, and Scripture records many Psalms and hymns of praise to God expressing his honest emotions and his unfailing trust in the Lord God. We have a magnificent verse of comfort and hope to hide in our minds for any fearful situation: "What time I

am afraid, I will trust in Thee." How many times sitting in an airplane high above the earth during a severe thunderstorm, have I quoted the verse to myself (or when God led, to fellow passengers). Read Psalm 56:3, 4, 11.

We have many of David's thoughts while fleeing from Saul. Read these and other meditations of his heart in Psalm 34, 52, 54, 56, 57, 59, 142.

Charles Spurgeon wrote: "It is a blessed fear which drives us to trust. Unregenerate fear drives from God; gracious fear drives to Him. Trusting God we have the best antidote to fear! Faith brings forth praises. He who can trust will soon sing!"

### 3. Help Friends

1 Samuel 20

"The Hebrew term Chesed,

translated faithfully (v. 8), is significant. David's use of covenant terminology showed that he and Jonathan understood their friendship was built on a foundation of their relationship with God." Jonathan kept his promise to deal honestly with his friend in spite of the circumstances.

### 4. Encourage Friends

1 Samuel 21-23

To follow the flow of the narrative, be sure to read all of the six chapters in the background passage this week. Before the end of Chapter 23, David hides as Saul pursues him with the intent to kill. Saul pursued David to Nob; Achish of Gath; cave of Adulham (Psalm 142 records the occasion in 1 Samuel 22:1 when David prayed while hiding in a cave from Saul); Mizpeth of Moab; forest of Hereth; Keilah; wilderness of Ziph; and Horesh.

On Jonathan's final meeting with David, they visited at Horesh. Jonathan encouraged David, reminding him not to be afraid of the future because even King Saul knew that David was to be the next king of Israel. Jonathan was a noble,

loyal friend. (23:15-18).

En-gedi (1 Samuel 23:29), located about 35 miles southeast of Jerusalem, is west of the Dead Sea. This week's passage ends and the next begins with David living in En-gedi. A beautiful photograph on the cover of this quarter's literature shows "The only natural waterfall in Israel located at an oasis in En-gedi on the west side of the Dead Sea." (Holman Dictionary, p. 418, J. F. Drinkard, Jr.).

Another source and foundation of our stability in Christ is to cultivate Godly friendships. None of us is a perfect friend. Sometimes friends need each other, but circumstances prevent us from helping the other. Maybe we are sick or encumbered with family cares, life's concerns, or other commitments and can't help nor meet the expectations of friends. Real friends understand. But always remember, "there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother" (Prov. 18:24), our Lord Jesus (John 15:13-15)!

Caughman teaches a senior ladies Sunday School class at First Church Magee.

# Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

# Record

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

# Panel spotlights religious abuses in Kazakhstan, Burma

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has urged the federal government to promote democracy, human rights, and religious freedom for people in Kazakhstan and Burma.

Amendments approved in 2005 to Kazakhstan laws require religious organizations to register under the regional and national Ministry of Justice offices. USCIRF is concerned a recent draft law that is advancing in the Kazakh parliament will restrict religious communities.

Burmese citizens continue to suffer more than a year after their repressive military junta used violence to crack down on peaceful protests over the government's drastic increase in fuel prices. Thousands of Buddhist monks joined those demonstrations. The military put an end to the protests in late September 2007 by killing, beating and jailing protesters, including monks.

"Burma's military junta has presided over a human rights and humanitarian disaster that is deepening, not receding," USCIRF Chair Felice Gaer said in a statement released in late September. "The military's many human rights abuses are a direct challenge to every Burmese, as well as to international human rights law and regional security."

Gaer recommended the U.S. government begin to assist the Burmese people by creating an "interagency task force" in the National Security Council and by appointing a U.S. special envoy to Burma.

USCIRF urged the U.S. government to work with both European and Asian allies to tighten sanctions and intensify diplomatic engagement with the Burmese government. The commission also recommended the United States urge the United Nations to establish requirements the Burmese military must meet in order to end the country's isolation from the rest of the world.

The international community also must "coordinate its efforts to free all prisoners, distribute disaster relief, begin the process of democratic transition, end the abuses targeting ethnic and religious minorities, and convince Burma's neighbors to stop propping up the junta," Gaer added.

Overall, Gaer said the commission is mostly concerned with the number of political and religious prisoners that has doubled in Burma over the past several years. According to USCIRF, there are approximately 2,000 "prisoners of conscience" behind bars in Burma.

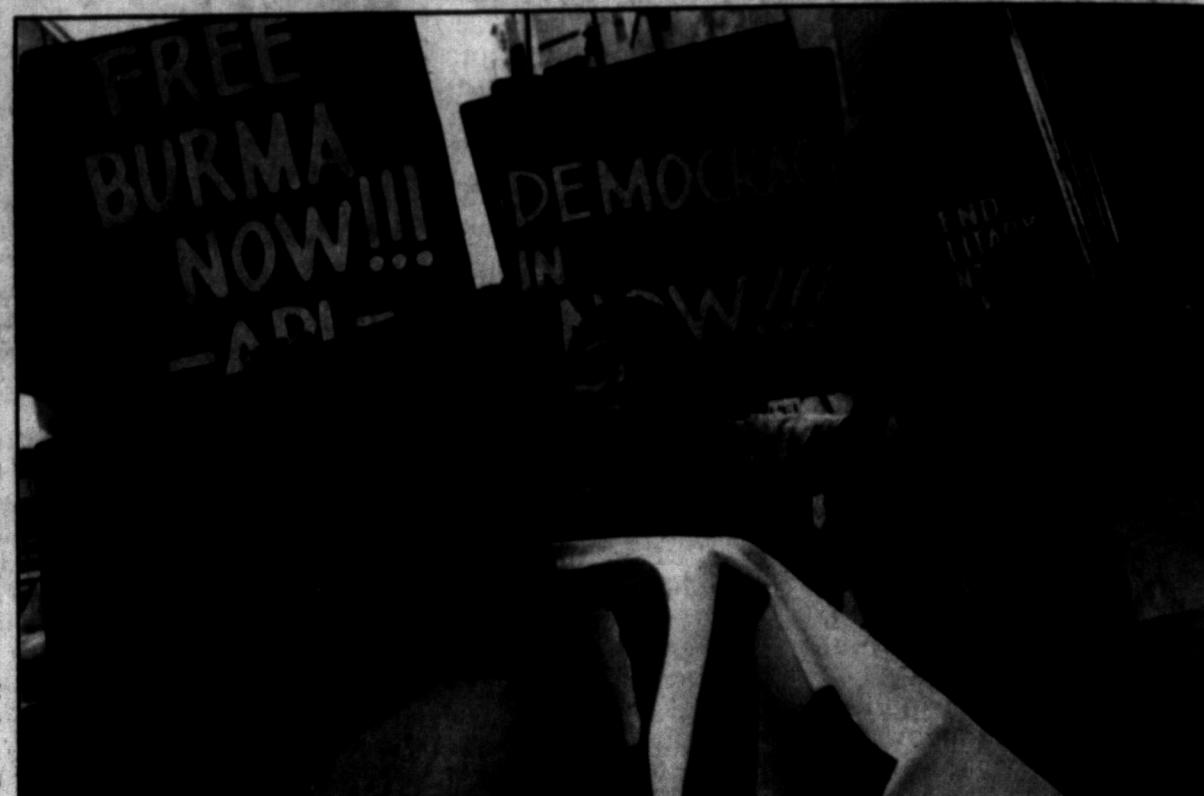
"The release of a few does nothing for the thousands who remain in prison for their peaceful activities to promote human rights and political freedoms," Gaer said. "Their release must be the most urgent demand of the U.S. government and its allies."

The U.S. State Department has designated Burma as one of eight "countries of particular concern," a classification reserved for the world's most severe violators of religious freedom.

Kazakhstan also is being closely monitored by the commission for its violation of religious liberty.

Recently, the lower chamber of the Kazakh parliament passed a measure restricting and governing freedom of religion and belief. The proposal calls for tighter registration requirements for all religious groups, a smaller number of religious communities and increased penalties for members of unregistered communities.

"With this law, Kazakhstan has demonstrated a disturbingly lax commitment to uphold international human rights standards," Gaer said in a written release October 3.



**BURMA PROTEST** — A bloody crackdown by the military junta of Burma, also known as Myanmar, against protests by civilians and Buddhist monks in September of last year prompted protests in the Philippines, shown here, and elsewhere around the world. The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom is pressing the United States to lead international efforts to press for reform in the Asian country. (BP photo by Luis Liwanag/AFP/Getty Images)

Joseph Griboski, president of the Institute on Religion and Public Policy, called for the Organization for Security and Co-operation (OSCE), a 56-state regional security organization, to re-evaluate making Kazakhstan the OSCE chair in 2010.

"We strongly urge the OSCE member states to reconsider Kazakhstan's chairmanship in 2010 unless the Kazakh government revises the draft law to be in compliance with OSCE guidelines concerning religious freedom," Griboski said.

The commission also called for the U.S. government to work through diplomatic channels in urging the Kazakh government to revamp or abolish the legislation.

"Despite Kazakh officials' assurances at the OSCE meeting in Warsaw, this law neither simplifies the legal requirements for religious communities nor augments their freedom," Gaer said.

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, is a USCIRF member.

## Ca. amendment pulls ahead in late polling as election nears

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (BP) — With less than one month before voters go to the polls, supporters of a proposed California constitutional marriage amendment have built an impressive fundraising lead they hope will carry them to victory — although they're bracing for a wave of donations to the opposition in the face of such good news.

ProtectMarriage.com reported October 6 to the California secretary of state that it had raised \$25.4 million this year and had \$12.8 million in the bank as of September 30. By contrast, opponents of the amendment, known as Proposition 8, had raised \$22.6 million this year but had only three million dollars in the bank.

Some of the largest donations for both sides have come from out of state.

ProtectMarriage.com received so many donations (62,000) that it had trouble uploading the nearly 5,000-page document to the state computer. About two-thirds of the donations have been \$100 or less.

The news drew cautious excitement from supporters. A public poll has them in the lead for the first time in more than four months, but calls are being made for more donations to opponents of the measure. Supporters believe opponents of Prop 8 will receive considerably more money in the coming days, partly because the majority of big-money Hollywood opposes the amendment.

Director Steven Spielberg and actor Brad Pitt each gave \$100,000 to opponents. Big-name companies also have donated. Levi Strauss & Co., the blue jeans maker based in San Francisco, gave \$25,000 to opponents, as did telecommunications conglomerate AT&T.

The amendment, if passed, would protect the natural definition of marriage, thereby reversing the May decision by the California Supreme Court legalizing homosexual marriage.

"We're right on budget for our campaign, but we didn't anticipate how much the other side would raise," Geoff Kors, executive director of Equality California, which opposes Proposition 8, told the San Francisco Chronicle.

The No on 8 campaign even took the unusual step of releasing its own internal poll showing the amendment leading, 47-43%, in the hopes of attracting donations. A public poll by SurveyUSA had the amendment leading 47-42%.

"We are not matching them dollar for dollar, and that is slippage that we've got to stop," Kors said on a media conference call, according to the Bay Area Reporter.

Chip White, a spokesperson for ProtectMarriage.com, told Baptist Press he expects the other side to see a flood of more money.

"They are using this news as a way to generate donations," he said. "...This race is not over. This race won't be over until Election Day."

Supporters of the amendment trailed for months and took the lead in the latest polls apparently on the strength of their first television advertisement. They since have released their second TV advertisement, showing an elementary school girl arriving home from school and saying, "Mom, guess what I learned in school today....I learned how a prince married a princess and I can marry a princess." She then hands her mom a copy of the children's book King & King, an illustrated story of a prince marrying a prince.

Richard Peterson of the Pepperdine University School of Law then appears in the commercial and says, "Think it can't happen? It's already happened. When Massachusetts legalized gay marriage, schools began teaching second-graders that boys can marry boys. The courts ruled parents had no right to object."

Opponents have objected to the ad's assertion, but White says it is true. In fact, parents of an elementary school child in Lexington, Ma., did file suit in federal court after a teacher read a copy of King & King to the class. The parents lost.

"If Proposition 8 does not pass, there will be real consequences — especially consequences for California's public school children," White said. "If the voters don't overturn the decision by the four activist San Francisco-based judges, then California schoolchildren will be forced to learn there is no differ-

ence between same-sex marriage and traditional marriage."

The first television ad showed San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom celebrating hours after the California Supreme Court's ruling and saying about homosexual marriage, "The door's wide open now. It's gonna happen — whether you like it or not." He came across as arrogant in the eyes of some people, and the advertisement uses his "whether you like it or not" phrase at the beginning and end of the ad.

Newsom told the San Francisco Chronicle that he took a weekend trip to Long Beach, where he saw the ad playing "day and night."

"I watch that commercial and I just cringe," he told the newspaper. "Candidly, I'm embarrassed by it. And it's horrible because 30 million people have seen it."

Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in June passed a resolution urging Southern Baptists in California to work and vote for the amendment there and for all Southern Baptists and other Christians to pray for its passage.

Messengers passed the resolution nearly unanimously.

Additionally, in September the executive board of the California Southern Baptist Convention unanimously passed a resolution endorsing the amendment.